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No. 1625/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 8:30 A.M. EDT)

1. There have been no major changes in the de facto situation in Western Nigeria since the Sitrep of 5:30 P.M. yesterday. The international airport at Ikeja on the outskirts of Lagos remains in the hands of dissident Hausa military elements as apparently do Abeokuta and Ibadan. The troops sent from Lagos to attempt recovery of the airport reportedly were ambushed en route and suffered heavy casualties. Two Europeans caught up in this action were killed and a third was wounded. No further information is available regarding Ironsi who may well be dead in Ibadan.

2. However, Army Brigadier Ogundipe and deputy police chief Salem, who along with a British police officer appear to be the key leaders of the military government as it now exists, are not in a strong position militarily. Except for the national guard company in Lagos, which probably has no more than an internal security capability in the capital area, there appear to be no reliable forces readily available to the regime. The Ikeja-based Second Battalion--the closest important tactical unit--has evidently disintegrated in bitter tribal fighting; its commander has taken refuge with the police in the area. The most potent force in all southern Nigeria, the Second Reconnaissance Squadron at Abeokuta where the mutiny first erupted, has apparently been taken over by a dissident Hausa officer. Although the Fourth Battalion in Ibadan is commanded by a non-Hausa northerner who would not automatically be in league with the dissident Hausa elements, this unit has apparently at least done nothing to check the mutiny. Other army

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